

REMARKS

Claims 1-31 are pending in the application. Claims 15, 26 and 29-31 have been withdrawn as being directed to non-elected subject matter in response to the Restriction Requirement. The elected claims set forth, herein, are merely to comply with the Restriction Requirement and is not to be construed as surrender of any subject matter in the instant application. Applicants hereby reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of the cancelled claims in one or more divisional patent applications.

Restriction Requirement

In the above-identified Office Action, the Examiner set forth a restriction requirement and required election of one of the following groups under 35 U.S.C. §121 and 37 CFR 1.475(c):

Group I: Claims 1-28, drawn to an isolated polypeptide comprising a SOCS sequence and a membrane translocation sequence; nucleic acid encoding such; vectors; host cells; and a method of administering the polypeptide.

Group II: Claims 29-31, drawing to a method comprising administering to a subject a polypeptide comprising a mutated SOCS sequence, wherein the mutated SOCS sequence lacks or has a reduced suppressor of cytokine signaling function.

In response, Applicants elect Group 1: Claims 1-28, drawn to an isolated polypeptide comprising a SOCS sequence and a membrane translocation sequence; nucleic acid encoding such; vectors; host cells; and a method of administering the polypeptide. This election is made without traverse. In addition, the Examiner has issued a species election. Applicants elect "infection." This election is made without traverse.

CONCLUSION

Applicants invite the Examiner to call the undersigned if it is believed that the above restriction election is incomplete or improper in any way, or if a telephonic interview will expedite the prosecution of the application to an allowance.

The Commissioner for Patents and Trademarks is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment in any fees paid on the filing, or during prosecution of this application to Deposit Account No. 04-0100.

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Respectfully submitted,

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